



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

Raised Bill No. 1033

LCO No. 3336

Referred to Committee on Commerce

Introduced by:
(CE)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF TANF FUNDS FOR
MICROLOANS AND MICROGRANTS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 17b-688e of the general statutes is repealed and
2 the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 (a) In accordance with section 17b-688c, the Department of Social
4 Services shall administer the employment services program for the
5 purpose of providing services to recipients of benefits under the
6 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program pursuant to Title
7 IV-A of the Social Security Act.

8 (b) To the extent permitted under section 17b-688c, the Labor
9 Department shall be responsible for the administration of employment
10 services to recipients of temporary family assistance under the
11 employment services program administered by the Department of
12 Social Services pursuant to section 17-688c. The employment services
13 provided by the Labor Department shall include appropriate basic
14 education and occupational skills training combined with subsidized
15 or unsubsidized work experience and employment, as deemed

16 appropriate by the Labor Department, and any other programs or
17 services deemed appropriate by the Labor Department, to the extent
18 permitted under state and federal law, including, but not limited to,
19 the following: (1) Employment, (2) work-study, internship or
20 apprenticeship opportunities; (3) adult skills training, including
21 literacy, mathematics and language proficiency with curriculum
22 related to job opportunities and job search skills; (4) occupational skills
23 training; (5) case management and counseling in successful work skills;
24 [and] (6) access to state-subsidized child care and transportation,
25 where needed; and (7) microloans and microgrants. Services may be
26 provided by existing service providers, including, but not limited to,
27 local or regional boards of education or regional educational service
28 centers that offer adult education programs, community-technical
29 colleges and vocational-technical schools.

30 (c) Not later than January 1, 1999, and annually thereafter, the Labor
31 Department shall submit a report to the Governor, the joint standing
32 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
33 relating to appropriations, human services and labor and public
34 employees and the Connecticut Employment and Training
35 Commission. Each report shall contain an evaluation of the operation
36 of the employment services administered by the Labor Department
37 pursuant to this section, including the number of persons who receive
38 employment services, their gender and outcomes. Each such report
39 shall also provide specific information regarding the cost-effectiveness
40 of the employment services.

41 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

Statement of Purpose:

To authorize the use of TANF funds for microloans and microgrants.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]